United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, authorizes 40-day deployment of United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group to monitor Libyan withdrawal from area.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, warns Bosnian parties of serious consequences of any military offensive in Posavina corridor; calls for immediate resumption of negotiations without preconditions.

+ UNHCR says it urgently needs $38.5 million to provide humanitarian aid to 250,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania; Secretary-General endorses appeal by former Tanzanian President for international action in Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says conditions are not right for deployment of United Nations peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Georgia; cites failure of parties to accept mandate proposals.

+ Secretary-General to convene meeting on former Yugoslavia in Paris on 12 May; reiterates his full support for Special Representative Akashi.

+ Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations should be marked by programmes of education and communication, Secretary-General says; sees opportunity for Organization to build constituency in world opinion.

+ Special Mission to Afghanistan travels to Geneva after five days of talks in Iran and Saudi Arabia; to visit Moscow for consultations with Russian Government.

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The Security Council last night authorized the deployment of the United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group (UNASOG) to monitor Libya's withdrawal from the area on its border with Chad. The Strip had been disputed by the two countries since 1973, but the International Court of Justice ruled in February that Libya should withdraw its administration and forces. Last month, Libya and Chad signed an agreement on modalities for implementation of the Court's Judgement.

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In unanimously adopting resolution 915 (1994), the Council said UNASOG's nine observers and six support staff would be deployed for 40 days. It also exempted UNASOG flights from the aerial sanctions imposed on Libya in relation to the bombings of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The Council called on the parties to cooperate with UNASOG and with the Secretary-General in verifying compliance with their obligations.

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In another meeting last night, the Security Council warned the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the serious consequences of any offensive military action in or around the Posavina "corridor". In a statement read out by its President, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), the Council called on the parties to agree to a complete cessation of hostilities and to immediately resume peace negotiations without preconditions.

The Council welcomed arrangements for a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) presence in the Posavina region, and encouraged the Secretary-General's Special Representative to seek enhanced aerial surveillance of that and other areas of tension. The Council called on the Bosnian parties to cooperate with the Special Representative on the planned UNPROFOR deployment.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today said it urgently needed $38.5 million to provide humanitarian aid for 250,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania over the next three months. Aid workers have been battling torrential rains and sanitation problems to ease the plight of the refugees, who are crowded into a makeshift camp near the border town of Ngara. The UNHCR said the refugees had arrived from Rwanda in good health, but were now threatened with outbreaks of typhoid and cholera.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has endorsed an appeal by former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere for urgent action by the international community to resolve the situation in Rwanda. Mr. Nyerere today called on African Heads of State and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to act individually and collectively to end the carnage in Rwanda.

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Conditions are not right for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Georgia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said. In a report to the Security Council dated 3 May, he cited the failure of the two sides to accept proposals for the mandate of such a force. He also doubted whether the Council would risk another peace-keeping operation which might not be able to cary out its mandate because of non-cooperation by parties on the ground.

The Secretary-General outlined three options for the Council's consideration. It could establish, but not deploy, a force, in the hope that

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such action would convince the parties to accept conditions for eventual deployment. By the second option, the Council could authorize the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to establish an operation, with the option of including it in a United Nations operation at a later date. As a third option, the Secretary-General said the Council could postpone any decision until the parties agreed on the mandate and deployment of a United Nations force.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has announced that he will convene a meeting to discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia in Paris on 12 May. The meeting will be attended by Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia; Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and General Bertrand de Lapresle, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The discussion will not be limited to Bosnia or to any part of the former Yugoslavia, but will cover all aspects of the situation there.

In remarks to correspondents in Geneva today, the Secretary-General reiterated that he had full confidence in Special Representative Akashi, who was in charge of all United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia and who was effectively supported by UNPROFOR. The Secretary-General stressed that he would not "micro-manage" those operations, wherever he might be.

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The Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations will be a major milestone to be marked not only by celebration, but by programmes of reflection, education and communication, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in Geneva yesterday while chairing a meeting of eminent persons on the Anniversary. The group is the Secretary-General's "think tank" on issues and challenges surrounding the event.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations should reach beyond informed or elite public opinion to a global audience. Young people should be a major target of programmes for the Anniversary. "We can raise public awareness of the Organization, and build a constituency for the United Nations in world public opinion," he stressed. The international community should celebrate what had been achieved, and safeguard it for the future. He observed that some 39 Fiftieth Anniversary national committees had already been established and that more were being formed every day.

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The Secretary-General's Special Mission to Afghanistan today left Tehran for Geneva after five days of high-level talks in Iran and Saudi Arabia and a month of consultations around Afghanistan and in Pakistan. The head of the

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Mission, Mahmoud Mestiri, described the latest talks as positive, and noted that the Governments of Iran and Saudi Arabia supported the United Nations initative to explore ways of bringing reconstruction to Afghanistan.

The Mission will continue its work over the coming weeks, with talks in Geneva and a visit to Moscow to consult with the Russian Government, before reporting to the Secretary-General.

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Correction

In the Daily Highlights of Wednesday, 4 May, the first sentence in the second paragraph on page 3 should have read: "Meanwhile, the Director of the Office of the United Nations Legal Counsel, Ralph Zacklin, has said that the killings in Rwanda amount to genocide."